inputs like raw material, fuel and power. Comparison of international cost and prices will be relevant only if such factors operating in Indian plants are similar to those prevailing abroad.

(c) The information is given in the attached Statement-I. (*See* below).

(d) Information is given in the attached Statement-II. (*See* below).

(e) The policy of Government applies to all varieties of cement as defined in Cement Control Order, 1967.

Statement-I

CIF value of imported cement

In recent months, no contract has been entered into for import of cement in the country. As such, current cif value of imported cement is not available.

Levy Cement

The sale price of levy cement in respect of Ordinary Portland Cement and Pozzolana Portland Cement is Rs. 833.99 per tonne and Rs. 838.99 per tonne respectively, which is inclusive of excise duty and packing charges, but exclusive of central sale tax, local sale tax and other local levies, which vary from place to place.

Free Sale Cement

There is no price control on non-levy cement. Actual market price fluctuates from place to place and on day to day basis. The Cement Manufacturers' Association have, however, fixed an upper ceiling for free sale cement as under:—

Kerala, Maharashtra, Jammu & Kashmir, Assam and North Eastern States....Rs. 69 per bag

Other States .... Rs. 64 per bag

The above prices are inclusive of dealers' margin, central sale tax and freight upto 20 Kms. from the last rail head of the destination but are exclusive of local sales tax and other local levies.

Statement-II

Import of Cement

Under the current import policy, import of cement including clinker but excluding oil well cement required by ONGC and Oil India, Limited, will be made by the State Trading Corporation of India under OGL, on the basis of foreign exchange released by the Government in its favour. The import distribution and pricing will be made by the STC, as per the connected policy of the Government in the Ministry of Industry.

In view of the improved availability of cement in the country, Government at present, has no plan to import cement.

Distribution and pricing of cement

After the introduction of the scheme of Partial decontrol of cement with effect from 28-2-82, there are two categories of cement *viz.* Levy Cement and Non-Levy Cement available to the consumers. While levy cement is subject to pricing and distribution control, non-levy cement is free from such control and the producers of cement have to give a part of their production for sale as levy cement.

Report of Inter-ministerial Committee for development of backward areas

678. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the Inter-ministerial Committee constituted to review and revise the Central Incentive Scheme for industrial dispersal and development of backward areas has been received by the Government;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government on the basis of the recommendations made in the above Report; and

(c) if not, by when the Report of the Committee is likely to be submitted to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Report is likely to be submitted by the end of December, 1986.

Survey on small scale sick units

679. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has recently been made by Government of the small scale units which have fallen sick;

(b) if so, what is the result of that survey; and

(c) whether it is proposed to provide Central aid to the sick small scale units for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. A diagnostic survey regarding sickness in the small scale units was conducted in 1982-83 by Office of the Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries. The report of the Survey was published in October, 1985.

(b) According to the survey, 6.1 per cent of the units surveyed were found to be sick. The main causes of sickness as revealed by the survey were imbalances in investment and financial structure of units due to heavy investment in fixed assets and greater reliance on borrowed capital, shortage of raw-materials, inadequacy of working capital, marketing and labour problems.

(c) A number of measures to contain the spread of sickness and rehabilitation of sick units in the small scale sector have been taken up by the Government. The Reserve Bank of India have issued guidelines/instructions to the Commercial Banks for revival of sick units and to consider grant of need-based credit facilities on concessional terms. The RBI, IDBI and the scheduled Commercial Banks have set up Special Cells to tackle problems associated with sick industrial units. Government have constituted State Level Inter Institutional Committees to render assistance to sick units in a coordinated manner. Measures for facilitating the growth and updating technology of small scale industries, extension of institutional network for providing necessary back-up support, consolidation and improvement of workshop facilities, setting up of process and product development centres and field testing stations have been taken. The Central Government have introduced a Margin Money Scheme to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in revival of sick small scale units. The scheme is under review.

Removing of restrictions from capacity expansion by industrial units

680. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently removed restrictions on capacity expansion by industrial units in the country on the ground that the goods produced by the units are meant for export; and